



**STATE OF WASHINGTON**  
**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES**

**MEDICAL ASSISTANCE ADMINISTRATION**

***PO Box 45536 • Olympia WA 98504-5536***

**ECONOMIC SERVICES ADMINISTRATION**

***PO Box 45440 • Olympia WA 98504-5440***

**AGING & DISABILITY SERVICES ADMINISTRATION**

***PO Box 45600 • Olympia WA 98504-5600***

May 8, 2003

**TO:** Regional Administrators, CSD  
HCS Regional Administrators  
CSO Administrators, CSD  
CSO Financial Supervisors  
HCS Financial Program Managers

**FROM:** Steven Wish, Director  
Division of Customer Support  
Medical Assistance Administration

Michael W. Masten, Director  
Community Services Division  
Economic Services Administration

Penny Black, Director  
Home & Community Services  
Aging & Disability Services Administration

**SUBJECT: ELIMINATION OF MEDICALLY INDIGENT (MI) PROGRAM**

The Washington State Legislature chose to terminate the MI Program, effective June 30, 2003. The MI program, which was funded with state dollars, provided hospital, nursing facility, and ambulance services for clients with an emergent medical condition who did not qualify for other programs. Effective June 30, 2003, WAC 388-438-0100, which regulated the MI program, will be repealed by emergency order.

**PROCEDURAL INFORMATION**

Clients who meet program requirements may continue to receive coverage under the MI program through June 30, 2003. Changes needed to eliminate MI coverage in ACES or to automatically close MI coverage approved beyond June 30, 2003, cannot be implemented until 2004. In the interim, please take the following actions to reduce client confusion and incorrect case actions.

- **CONTINUE TO ACCEPT APPLICATIONS**

Clients and hospitals can continue to submit applications through September 2003 for retroactive coverage that can go back to June 30, 2003. However, benefits cannot be approved beyond June 30, 2003.

- **SHORTEN THE CERTIFICATION PERIOD**

There may be cases with an eligibility end date that extends beyond June 30, 2003. Beginning with applications received May 1, 2003, shorten the certification period to end June 30, 2003. A monthly report of all MI cases with certification periods that extend beyond June 30, 2003, will be sent to each office for immediate action after the May 2003 deadline. The Medical Assistance Administration (MAA) is notifying hospitals and nursing facilities that they cannot bill under this program for services received beyond June 30, 2003.

- **CLIENT FLYER**

MAA is sending a flyer to active MI clients in late May or early June. The flyer will state:

***“You are receiving medical coverage for an emergency medical condition. Your coverage under this program will end June 30, 2003. There is no funding for the emergency medical program due to a state law change.”***

- **FREE-FORM TEXT:**

Add the following language to MI approvals or denials:

***The MI program ends June 30, 2003. There is no funding for this program beyond that date due to a change in state law. Please contact your worker if you believe you are eligible for another program.***

- **ACES INSTRUCTIONS**

MAA is leaving the program intact in ACES to provide limited inpatient psychiatric care. When finalized, we will notify the field on how to open a case for this limited program benefit. Please exercise extreme caution to avoid opening any MI case after June 30, 2003. ACES will continue to allow MI to be opened in the system, but MI services cannot be covered as the program will no longer exist.

- **WHAT ABOUT PROVIDER QUESTIONS?**

MAA will issue a provider memo about how to bill after the elimination of the MI program. HCS will no longer authorize nursing facility care for MI clients after the elimination of the MI program. Any provider questions regarding payment should be directed to MAA. You may refer provider questions to the MAA Provider Relations phone line at 1-800-562-6188.

Regional Administrators, et.al  
May 8, 2003  
Page 3

If you have any further questions, please contact your MAA regional representative:

Region	Representative	Phone Number	E-mail Address
Region 1	Wendy Forslin	360-725-1320	<a href="mailto:forslwc@dshs.wa.gov">forslwc@dshs.wa.gov</a>
Region 2	Judy Cook	360-725-1324	<a href="mailto:cookjr@dshs.wa.gov">cookjr@dshs.wa.gov</a>
Region 3	Stephen Kozak	360-725-1321	<a href="mailto:kozaksj@dshs.wa.gov">kozaksj@dshs.wa.gov</a>
Region 4	Joanie Scotson	360-725-1330	<a href="mailto:scotsjk@dshs.wa.gov">scotsjk@dshs.wa.gov</a>
Region 5	Mary Beth Ingram	360-725-1327	<a href="mailto:ingramb@dshs.wa.gov">ingramb@dshs.wa.gov</a>
Region 6	Mary Wood	360-725-1329	<a href="mailto:woodme@dshs.wa.gov">woodme@dshs.wa.gov</a>

cc: Phyllis Lowe, Economic Services Administration  
Doug Porter, Medical Assistance Administration  
Kathy Leitch, Aging & Disability Services Administration  
Rick Bacon, Aging & Disability Services Administration  
Mark Westenhaver  
Mary Lou Percival  
Manning Pellanda, MEDS  
Rick Arnold, Tribal Liaison